
Erica Skogebo Edwards

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Career Objective

To participate in research that will help create a just, inclusive and equitable society for all people with disabilities and older adults, specifically in the area of employment.

Education

Ph.D. Public Administration (in progress), Concentration: Aging & Disability Policy
College of Public Programs
Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

M.S.W. Concentration: Planning & Administration (May, 2001)
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Scholarship Recipient

B.B.A. in Business Management (December, 1996)
Dual degree: B.A. in Spanish (December, 1996)
University of Texas at Austin

Work Experience

8/09 – current Research Assistant, Morrison Institute for Public Policy

- Served as researcher for a study in collaboration with ASU and St. Luke's released in September, 2010, which measured the impact of the aging population on Arizona.
- Collect public policy data to guide better policy in areas such as the state budget, domestic violence, disability, and political decision-making.
- Write blogs and memos on state political issues.
- Develop key indicators measuring the state's aging and disability demographics that are published on the website for the public's and media's general use.

6/05 – 8/09 Executive Director, LINC Inc., Belleville, IL

- Managed, revitalized, and created programs that empower persons with disabilities to live independently, including older adults. Won NCIL award for Best Practices in Aging & Disability collaboration. Rural program cited as one of top five most innovative programs in the country by APRIL.
- Promoted and advocated for legislation that will promote quality of life for all persons with disabilities. Met regularly with all area state and federal legislators.
- Oversaw and increased financial operations of the agency. Revenue had increased by almost 50% over the last four years.

- Collaborated with area agencies to coordinate effective programming for people with disabilities, including the underserved populations of mental health, developmental disabilities, and aging.

4/03- 6/05 Professional Education Coordinator, Alzheimer's Association, St. Louis

- Created new curriculum, programs, and products (i.e. disability sensitivity training) that increased number of persons served by 2,000 over one fiscal year
- Developed and implemented marketing plan, including e-marketing and newsletter, that increased FY 04 revenues to record levels in Alzheimer's Association history
- Built a state-wide coalition with state industry leaders that grew from nine to ninety members in its first six months
- Served on task force to evaluate and recommend changes to further improve agency operations
- Consulted with organizations on how to improve service delivery to their customers with disabilities

Recent Activities

Doctoral Paper of the Year Award Winner (2011) - "*Developing and Developed Neoliberalisms: The Impacts of governance on Protecting and Advancing the Rights of Citizens with Disabilities*"

Spirit of Service Scholar Award Winner for dedication to public service – 2010-2011

Peer Reviewer – Journal of Evaluation

Contributing author of published textbook "Lifting Our Voices: The Journeys into Family Caregiving of Professional Social Workers"

Contributing author of textbook "Rethinking Disability and Quality of Life: A Global Perspective" (to be published 2012)

Speaker for statewide and national conferences on disability-related topics

Presented paper "*Developing and Developed Neoliberalisms: The Impacts of governance on Protecting and Advancing the Rights of Citizens with Disabilities*" at Crippling Neoliberalism conference, Prague

Invited papers: Society for Applied Anthropology, "*The Impact of Government on Quality of Life for People with Disabilities in the U.S. and Guatemala*"

Co-presenter, Society for Disability Studies, "*Authoritative Discourses in Disability Theory: Policies for Inclusion*"

Desert Southwest Chapter Alzheimer's Association – Public Policy Committee

Special Skills

Fluent in MS applications, Quickbooks, Outlook, SPSS, STATA.

Experienced in grant-writing, research and evaluation, public speaking, project management. Spanish proficiency.